

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 PA-01 INR-01 ISO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /007 W

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P R 231300Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7981

USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

:AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 5039

USINT DAMASCUS

UNCLAS BEIRUT 5798

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARY'S MISSION CONTINUES TO RECEIVE FRONTPAGE COVERAGE WITH SEVERAL PAPERS HIGHLIGHTING REPORTS THAT DISENGAGEMENT OBSTACLES STILL UNRESOLVED. LOCAL TELEVISION AND PRO-COMMANDO AL LIWA CONTRAST WORDKING BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONDOLENCES TO ISRAEL AND TO LEBANON FOLLOWING RECENT ATTACKS TO, IN WORDS OF AL LIWA, "LET READERS CONCLUDE EXTENT OF FLAGRANT (BRITISH) BIAS ON ISRAEL'S SIDE." IN EDITORIALS THREE PAPERS EXAMINE PROBLEMS OF KISSINGER TALKS WHILE TWO DEBATE DECISION BY ARABS TO ATTEMPT MANUFACTURE THEIR OWN SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS. END SUMMARY.

2. EDITORIALY, PRO-LIBYA AS SAFIR COMMENTED: "CAUSE OF FAILURE OF SECRETARY'S CURRENT MIDEAST MISSION LIES IN MISSION ITSELF. STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY AND HIS AIDES REVEAL THAT WHAT KISSINGER WANTS IS MERE EVACUATION BY ISRAEL OF SOME OCCUPIED LANDS TO ACHIEVE EVEN A TEMPORARY DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ON SYRIAN FRONT. ON ARAB SIDE PICTURE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. POINT AT UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUE THERE, PARTICULARLY IN DAMASCUS, IS END OF OCCUPATION

AND COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM ALL OCCUPIED LANDS."

3. INDEPNDENT AL BAYRAQ: "PROBALBY MAIN CAUSE OF TROUBLE CONCERNING KISSINGER'S MISSION IS HIS REPUTED ABILITY TO SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS...THIS MADE OPTIMISTS FEEL DAMASCUS MIGHT AGREE TO LEAVE QUESTIONS OF COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AND RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS TO BE DEALT WITH AT GEVEVA. BUT SYRIA HAS ADHERED TO THESE TWO POINTS AND INSISTED THAT ISRAEL SHOULD COMMIT ITSELF TO THEM BEFORE DISENGAGEMENT TAKES PLACE.".

4. INDEPNDENT AN NAHAR: "SUCCESS OF SET-BACK FOR U.S. SECRETARY IS STILL TIED TO ARAB MODERATION AND ISRAELI INFLEXIBILITY. YET ARABS CLING TO KISSINGER AS IF HE IS ONLY SAVIOR WHILE NIXON CLINGS TO FEISAL AND SADAT AS IF THEY ARE HIS ONLY LIFELINE. HE IS RIGHT BECAUSE IF THROUGH THEM PEACE IS NOT ACHIEVED, HIS PRESENCE WILL NO LONGER REMAIN NECESSARY TO PEACE."

5. ON ARMS QUESTION, PRO-SOVIET ASH SHAAB COMMENTS: "THERE IS NOTHING MORE SURPRISING THAN DECISION TAKEN BY ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH AN ORGANIZATION TO MANUFACTURE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS... IN WHOLE WORLD THERE ARE FEW STATES WITH THE FACTORIES, EXPERTS AND SECRETS TO MANUFACTURE THESE WEAPONS... EVEN IF ONE OF THESE STATES BECOME ANGRY ENOUGH TO PROVIDE US WITH SECRETS AND EXPERTS, CAN YOUNG INEXPERIENCED ARAB ESTABLISHMENT COMPETE WITH ANCIENT ARMS FACTORIES IN ADVANCED STATES?"

6. PRO-COMMANDO AL MUHARRIR: "REGARDLESS WHAT ARMS PROPOSED ORGANIZATION WILLMANUFACTURE AT THIS STAGE, THESE ARMS REMAN SECONDARY AND UNIMPORTANT, IF ARABS DO NOT CONCENTRATE ON MANUFACTURING ATOM BOMB". GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

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